[Mr. M. Govinda Pillai.]

Rs. 15·06 lakhs up-to-date. As many as 300 firms have registered their names with the Committee. The large increase in the number of competitive quotations has ended to greater economy. The Committee are also attempting, whenever possible, to effect economy by substitution of suitable cheaper materials for costly makes of articles by directing local manufacture of many articles in the P. W. D. Work-shops, in the Central Prison Manufactory, etc., at a much cheaper rate. Another important economy exercised by the Committee is in limiting to a minimum the purchase of stores from Indian Stocks and ordering them as far as possible from abroad on a duty-free basis, thus saving the duty payable on the articles ranging from 20 to 50 per cent of the actual value.

17. *Administration of Justice.* The continuance of the existing temporary Second Judges' Courts and the Temporary Munsiffs' Courts during the whole of the next year, except the one at Pathanamthitta, has been provided for in the Budget. But provision for the continuance of the Conciliation Boards has been made only for 8 months.

A committee has been appointed to go into the whole question of indebtedness with special reference to agricultural and industrial debts and the proper mode of dealing with the same and to report to Government their conclusions *inter-alia* regarding the extent to which compulsion may be resorted to in scaling down and settling the existing debts and the legal procedure to achieve the end. When the suggestions of the Committee are embodied in a suitable Legislative Enactment, as they will be very soon, the constitution of the Conciliation Board may undergo a thorough change.

18. *Central Prison.* To enable convict labour to be used to the best advantage of the Government as well as the convicts themselves, funds have been included in the next year's budget for the purchase of power looms, and warping and weaving machines for the Central Prison. Provision has also been made for the continuance of the Leather Industry. The Jail Manufactory has already offered to supply the leather goods required for the use of the State Police and Military and it is hoped that in the near future the industry will not only be able to stand on its own legs, but will also be a profitable concern.

19. *Police.* While reviewing the Revised Estimates for the current year, I have drawn the attention of the House to the heavy expenditure which the Government, in the discharge of their fundamental duties, had to incur for the preservation of peace and order and the protection of the person and property of the law-abiding citizens of the land. Though the sombre clouds that darkened the atmosphere have vanished to a considerable extent, the horizon is not yet perfectly clear and Government consider that it would be only a cautious measure of prevention that there should be specific provision in the budget for the continuance of the special police and of the Armed Reserve for a few more months next year to deal with any emergent situation, should it

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arise. Government will, however, only be too glad to avoid this expenditure if Political Organisations responsible for subversive movements will enable them to utilize the tax payer's money in more fruitful directions.

20. *Education.* The Education budget for the next year has provided for the appointment of a full time officer for organising vocational and welfare work in schools. A comprehensive scheme of craft education and physical culture combined with interest in the pupils' own environments will be devised and worked out. The officer will start the experiment in two or three schools in the first instance. Ample provision has also been made for the opening of new classes and the appointment of additional teachers therefor, as also for stipends and scholarships. The Education Programme for the next year covers an expenditure of Rs. 53·03 lakhs which includes the lump sum grant of Rs 8·4 lakhs to the Travancore Univerity. I am sure the House will be happy to learn in this connection that the Travancore University has begun work in full swing and that the Engineering College, the only one of its kinds in South India, excepting the one at Madras, has already entered upon the Degree and Diploma Courses from the beginning of the current academic year.

21. *Agriculture.* In addition to the allotment for the continuance of the existing agricultural schools and experimental farms and stations and for the usual activities of the Department, provision has been made in the budget for the opening of a training class for stockmen in the Veterinary Department. Special attention will be devoted to the management of livestock, which the House need hardly be told, is a matter of vital importance in a pre-eminently agrarian State like ours. A reorientation of the policy of this department as well as that of the Co-operative Department is under consideration with a view to co-ordinate their activities with those of the former and those educated persons who are willing to undertake the work of agricultural operations and marketing on up-to-date scientific lines.

22. *Industries.* In pursuance of the declared policy of Government that the industrial development of the country except the control and organisations of the primal necessities of the people, such as Water supply, Drainage, Light, Electricity and Transport, should as far as possible, be left to private agencies, of course, duly supported and financed, when necessary from the State Exchequer, the Rubber Factory, which was constructed and equipped at Government cost, was leased out on easy terms to a limited company of local incorporation, in the hope that the Factory would run on a commercial and competitive basis thereby providing a suitable means for indigent capitalists to get themselves trained in industrial enterprises. The results were, however, not quite encouraging. The Factory has had to be closed, not because of the inferiority and unsuitability of the manufactures which were admittedly of high quality, but because of imperfect marketing arrangements and want of rationalisation. The Government are now having in contemplation the resuscitation of the Factory under the immediate control and supervision of the Department of Industries;

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